

a recording head for a pigment ink to jet the pigment ink onto a recording medium having an ink receiving layer containing thermoplastic resin particles on a surface thereof and a pigment ink solvent absorbing layer adjoining to an inner side of the ink receiving layer;

a heating and pressing device to heat and press the recording medium recorded by the recording head so as to make the ink receiving layer of the recording medium transparent;

a conveyor to convey the recording medium recorded by the recording head to the heating and pressing device; and

a temperature controller to control a heating temperature by the heating and pressing device within a range of $T_0 \pm \Delta T^\circ\text{C}$, where T_0 is 50 to 150 $^\circ\text{C}$ and $\Delta T^\circ\text{C}$ is not larger than 10 $^\circ\text{C}$.

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3. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inkjet recording apparatus is adapted to record an image on one of plural kinds of recording medium, the inkjet recording apparatus further comprises a CPU which controls the heating and pressing device so as to change a heating and pressing time period in accordance with the kind of the recording medium.

4. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inkjet recording apparatus is adapted to record an image on one of plural kinds of recording medium and the temperature controller controls the heating temperature by the heating and pressing device in accordance with the kind of the recording medium.

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7. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the heating and pressing device is constructed to press the recording medium with a pressing force of 9.8×10^4 to $4.9 \times 10^6 \text{ Pa}$.

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17. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a CPU, wherein when the CPU controls the inkjet recording apparatus so as not to conduct recording during a predetermined time period, the temperature controller stops controlling the heating temperature such that the heating and pressing device stops heat generation.

18. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 17, wherein when the temperature

controller resumes controlling the heating temperature after the temperature controller stopped the controlling, the temperature controller controls the heating and pressing device so as to conduct heating and pressing by prolong relatively a heating and pressing time period after the heating temperature becomes higher than a lowest heating temperature and until the heating temperature becomes within a predetermined temperature range.

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19. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 18, wherein when the temperature controller controls the heating and pressing device so as to prolong the heating and pressing time period for the recording medium, the CPU controls the recording head so as to prolong relatively a recording time period per a unit length of the recording medium in a conveying direction of the recording medium.

20. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a carriage motor for moving the recording head so as to scan on the recording medium forwardly and backwardly in a direction perpendicular to the conveying direction of the recording medium, and wherein the CPU controls the carriage motor so as to prolong the recording time period by adjusting a stop time at which a scanning direction is changed.

21. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 19, wherein the recording head comprises a line head having a length corresponding to a width of the recording medium, and wherein the CPU controls the recording head so as to prolong the recording time period by adjusting a ink jetting time interval.

22. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a CPU, wherein when the CPU controls the inkjet recording apparatus so as not to conduct recording during a predetermined time period, the temperature controller controls such that the heating and pressing device keeps the heating temperature within a second temperature lower than the range.

23. (Amended) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a CPU, wherein when the CPU controls the inkjet recording apparatus so as not to conduct recording during a predetermined time period, the temperature controller controls such that the heating and

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pressing device keeps the heating temperature within a second temperature lower than the range, and further when the CPU controls the inkjet recording apparatus so as not to conduct recording during a predetermined another time period, the temperature controller stops controlling the heating temperature such that the heating and pressing device stops heat generation.

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31. (Amended) An inkjet recording method of recording an image on a recording medium having an ink receiving layer containing thermoplastic resin particles on a surface thereof and a pigment ink solvent absorbing layer adjoining to an inner side of the ink receiving layer, comprising:

recording an image on the recording medium with a pigment ink; and
making the ink receiving layer transparent by heating and pressing the recording medium recorded the image with a heating temperature of $T_0 \pm \Delta T^\circ\text{C}$, where T_0 is 50 to 150°C and ΔT is not larger than 10°C.

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Please add the following Claims:

--33. (New) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

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a recording head for a pigment ink, to jet a pigment ink onto a recording medium having an ink receiving layer containing thermoplastic resin particles on a surface thereof and a pigment ink solvent absorbing layer adjoining to an inner side of the ink receiving layer;

a heating and pressing device to heat and press the recording medium recorded by the recording head with pressing force of 9.8×10^4 to 4.9×10^6 Pa so as to make the ink receiving layer of the recording medium transparent;

a conveyor to convey the recording medium recorded by the recording head to the heating and pressing device; and

a temperature controller to control a heating temperature by the heating and pressing device within a range of $T_0 \pm \Delta T^\circ\text{C}$, where T_0 is 50 to 150 °C and $\Delta T^\circ\text{C}$ is not larger than 10°C.--

--34 . (New) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 33, wherein the heating and

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(cont'd)

pressing device comprises a belt member stretched around at least two rollers and a roller coming in contact with the belt member so as to form a nip section therebetween where the recording medium passes through.--

--35. (New) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 34, wherein the heating and pressing device comprises two belt members each stretched around at least two rollers and the two belt members come in contact with each other so as to form a nip section therebetween where the recording medium passes through. --

--36. (New) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 33, wherein the heating and pressing device has a recording medium contacting surface to contact the recording medium and comprises a cleaning member to clean the recording medium contacting surface. - -

--37. (New) The inkjet recording apparatus of claim 33, wherein the belt member is provided so that the belt member comes in contact with the thermoplastic resin particles of the recording medium at the nip section and the recording medium is conveyed inside of the heating and pressing device with the state that the thermoplastic resin particles are in contact with the belt member. --

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on October 24, 2002. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 17-23 and 31 have been amended. New Claims 33 to 37 have been added. Claims 1-37 are therefore pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. The numbered paragraphs below correspond to the Examiner's numbered paragraphs.

2. The Examiner objected to Claims 3, 4, and 17-23 under 37CFR 1.75 (c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.